

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-identified application prior to examination.

By means of the present Preliminary Amendment, new claims 29-63 have been added to more fully claim the subject matter disclosed in the present application.

Particularly, new claims 29-63 are directed to aspects of the user station depicted in Figures 4-8 and aspects of the central controller, referred to as a central billing system in the claims, such as depicted in Figure 9. For instance, new independent Claims 29 and 48 set forth respectively a user station and method for recording, storing and playing multimedia content according to the principles of the invention. Care has been taken to ensure no new matter is being entered. It is respectfully submitted that the use of the term multimedia is to represent that the data transmitted/received may comprise video, audio (such as music CDs) or, audiovisual (movie or program) content.

The new claims further set forth various aspects of the time-based encoding scheme depicted in Figure 8. For instance, method Claims 52 and 53 set forth the step of "correlating" said first, second and third time-based code keys to enable play-back of said multimedia content. These claims are specifically directed to the user station software that implements a predetermined mathematical function applied to first (type "A") and a second time-based codes (type "B") to obtain a code (type "C") as described in the specification.

Early and favorable consideration are respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite the prosecution of this case, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Fischman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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